

Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste

March 19, 2001

Charles Shank, Director
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
1 Cyclotron Road
Berkeley, CA 94720

Re: LBNL's Environmental Sampling Task Force Meeting, March 29, 2001

Dear Mr. Director Shank:

Please extend our thanks to the Environmental Health and Safety Division for their responses to Environment Sampling Task Force members Fischer and Evans letters. However, we wish to point out that a response has not been received to Task Force member Gene Bernardi and her alternate, Pamela Sihvola's January 31, 2001 letter to Ron Pauer. We would appreciate your expediting a response to this letter.

Also at the last LBNL Task Force meeting community representatives requested verification of the level of operations (user tritiations) at the National Tritium Labeling Facility (NTLF), prior to the commencement of any actual sampling.

We would appreciate your providing the following shipping documents to fill in the data gaps:

1. Tritiated products shipped out of NTLF since May 2000 to present;
2. Tritium shipped into NTLF inventory since October 1998 to present.
3. Tritium shipped out for recycling since October 1998 to present.
4. Tritium shipped out as waste from HWHF since March 1997 to present.

Provide the current schedule for all user tritiations for CY 2001 and update the information on a monthly basis via LBNL Web Site and mail updates to Task Force members.

Ron Pauer, of LBNL's EH&S Division stated at the November 16, 2000 Task Force meeting that the Lab had recently overhauled the Overhoff real time tritium monitor. In order for us to better understand the monitor and its functions, please provide a written explanation pertaining to the "overhaul" and what exactly was done.

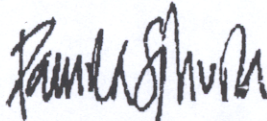
It is also our understanding that the computer connected to the Overhoff monitor was replaced and that a certain "background" concentration level for tritium is programmed into the new computer which is automatically deducted from the actual recorded data. In order to understand the process we would like information regarding the programming of the computer and how much tritium is currently being deducted (pCi/m) as "background" from NTLF's Overhoff real time monitoring data.

Per our letter of January 31, 2001 we would be most grateful if you could expedite our receipt of the CAP 88 and UC Davis Wind Tunnel Data, which we requested to be sent to all Task Force members two weeks prior to the next meeting (March 29, 2001). These data are crucial in evaluating whether the currently proposed soil, vegetation, and surface water/sediment sampling sites are adequate or correctly placed and for the technical justification for the air sampling plan and locations.

We are also requesting that an item titled "Verification of the Level of NTLF Operations, User Tritiations, During the Sampling Period" be added to the agenda of the March 29, 2001 Task Force meeting.

The fairness and integrity of the Task Force is dependent upon LBNL's responsiveness to all community Task Force members' requests for information. We trust that your intention is that LBNL treat all Task Force members with equal respect. Without further delay we look forward to a response to our requests.

Sincerely,



Pamela Sihvola, Co-Chair



Gene Bernardi, Co-Chair